



**ELIZABETH**  
TELEPHONE COMPANY

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November 12, 1997

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office of Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
CC Dkt 96-45  
Room 22  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington D.C. 20554

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**Re: Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Certification**

Ms Todd:

Please find enclosed Docket No. U-22765 issued by the Louisiana Public Service Commission which designates Elizabeth Telephone Company as an eligible telecommunications carrier effective November 6, 1997. In addition, this docket grants Elizabeth Telephone Company an extension of time until December 31, 1998 to upgrade its system to provide toll limitation.

Please let me know if you have any questions concerning this matter.

Yours truly,

Jane Carlock  
Vice President Administration

klm

Enclosure

cc: Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC)  
100 South Jefferson Road  
Whippany, N.J. 07981

Sheryl Todd  
Federal Communications Commission  
Universal Service Branch - CC DKT 96-45  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
2100 M Street, NW  
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**BEFORE THE LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
EX PARTE**

**Docket No. U-22765  
Elizabeth Telephone Company, Inc., ex parte.**

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**In Re: Exemption from the Provision of Toll Limitation to Qualified Low Income Consumers and Designation and Certification as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.**

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**ORDER NO. U-22765  
(Decided at the October 22, 1997 Open Session)**

Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act mandates that a telecommunications carrier may not receive funds from the Federal Universal Service Fund after January 1, 1998, unless it is designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) under section 214(e) [of the Telecommunications Act] by the state public service commission.<sup>1</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1) provides that only those carriers who offer and advertise *all* of the services supported by the Federal Universal Service Fund are eligible for ETC designation.<sup>2</sup>

However, 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(c) allows state commissions to grant requesting carriers additional time to complete any network upgrades that are necessary in order to provide single-party service, access to enhanced 911 service, or toll limitation, if exceptional circumstances warrant granting the additional time. Therefore, a carrier that does not currently provide these three services may receive universal service support, beginning January 1, 1998, for the duration of the period designated by the state commission while system upgrades are completed.

Elizabeth Telephone Company, Inc. ("Elizabeth") petitioned this Commission for certification as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, without intervention. Elizabeth submitted an affidavit declaring that it provides all of the required universal services except toll limitation.<sup>3</sup> Elizabeth requested additional time in order to upgrade its system to comply with this requirement.

This matter was brought before the Louisiana Public Service Commission at its Open Session on October 22, 1997. After discussion on the merits and a motion by Commissioner Dixon, seconded by Commissioner Sittig, the Commission unanimously voted to designate the above named carrier as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier. The Commission further voted to grant the carrier additional time to comply with the toll limitation requirement and that exceptional circumstances warranted the granting of additional time.

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<sup>1</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2) mandates that a state commission, upon its own motion or upon request, designate a common carrier, that meets the above requirements, as an eligible telecommunications carrier for a service area designated by the State commission.

<sup>2</sup> The supported services are: 1) Single-Party Service; 2) Voice Grade Access to the Public Switched Network; 3) DTMF Signaling or its functional equivalent; 4) Access to Emergency Services; 5) Access to Operator Services; 6) Access to Interexchange Service; 7) Access to Directory Assistance; 8) Access to Toll Limitation for qualifying low income consumers; and 9) Local Usage.

<sup>3</sup> "Toll blocking" is a service provided by carriers that lets consumers elect not to allow the completion of outgoing toll calls from their telecommunications channel. "Toll control" is a service provided by carriers that allows consumers to specify a certain amount of toll usage that may be incurred on their telecommunications channel per month or per billing cycle. "Toll limitation" denotes both toll blocking and toll control. 47 C.F.R. § 54.400.

Elizabeth has stated that it has the ability to provide toll blocking, but it does not have the ability, at this time, to provide toll control. Since both toll blocking and toll control are contained within the definition of toll limitation, Elizabeth can not provide toll limitation, as defined.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

1. Elizabeth be designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier for the Elizabeth, Pitkin, and Sugartown exchanges, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e).
2. Elizabeth be granted an extension of time until December 31, 1998 to upgrade its system to provide toll limitation.
3. Exceptional circumstances warrant the granting of said extension of time.
4. This Order is effective immediately.

**IT IS SO ORDERED**

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**

November 6, 1997

/S/ DON OWEN  
DON OWEN, CHAIRMAN  
DISTRICT V

/S/ IRMA MUSE DIXON  
IRMA MUSE DIXON, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
DISTRICT III

/S/ C. DALE SITTIG  
C. DALE SITTIG, COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT IV

/S/ JAMES M. FIELD  
JAMES M. FIELD, COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT II

/S/ JACK "JAY" A. BLOSSMAN, JR.  
JACK "JAY" A. BLOSSMAN, JR., COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT I



SECRETARY

Service List  
Docket No. U-22765

**Commissioners**

Jackie Rombaro - LPSC Staff Attorney

Arnold Chauviere, LPSC Utilities Division

Stanley Perkins - LPSC Auditing Division

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